

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 and 11-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 11-15, and 19-25 have been amended and claims 1 and 10 have been canceled.

In paragraph 6, on page 6 of the Office Action, claim 24 is allowed. Applicant appreciates this indication of the allowance of this claim.

In paragraph 7, on page 6 of the Office Action, claims 2-9, 11-13, 18-20 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all features of claims from which they depend. Claims 2 and 11 have been rewritten into independent form and they are allowable. Claims 3-9, 11-22, and 25-26 depend from allowable claims 2 and 11. Also, claim 23 has been amended to include a patentable feature of original claim 11 and thus is allowable.

In paragraph 3, on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 10, 14, 17, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Corrado et al. (Corrado) U.S. Patent No. 5,251,348. Claims 1 and 10 are cancelled. Claims 2, 11 and 23 are allowable for the reasons discussed above. Claims 14, 17, and 21 depend from allowable claim 11 and thus are also allowable. The rejection is thus moot.

In paragraph 5, on page 5 of the Office Action, claims 15, 16, 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Corrado. Claims 15, 16, 22 and 25 depend from allowable claim 11, which is allowable for the reasons discussed above. The rejection is thus moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Claim 24 is allowed. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-9 and 11-23, and 25-26 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Kurt P. Goudy
Registration No. 52,954

JAO:KPG/brc

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: February 23, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--